



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.

DATE: September 27, 2004

SUBJECT: Report on Modifications to the Michigan Monitoring Model for Special Education Programs and Services

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that states ensure that the requirements of the IDEA are met through a monitoring process. The Administrative Rules for Special Education (Rules), at R340.1839, require that the Michigan Department of Education (Department) establish monitoring procedures, criteria and other activities to ensure that all public agencies meet minimum monitoring standards. To meet these purposes, the Department has established the Michigan Monitoring Model (MMM), last revised in 2003.

Over the past three years, Michigan has been involved in monitoring under the U. S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), beginning with a self-assessment completed in 2001, and a plan for continuous improvement in outcomes for students with disabilities. While the federal monitoring model continues to include standards for minimum compliance, the model has been expanded to include the evaluation of student progress and indicators for results, such as improvement in state and local assessments, increased graduation rates and reduced drop-out rates.

The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) has worked with a broad group of stakeholders to develop a Continuous Improvement and Monitoring System (CIMS) for local and intermediate school districts to parallel the federal model of continuous improvement in results for students with disabilities. This model will be piloted during the 2004-2005 school year in six selected school districts which have agreed to participate in a state review. All intermediate school districts will be trained in conducting their own self-review this school year.

This requires that the previously approved MMM be suspended for this school year. However, the existing MMM will continue to be implemented relative to outstanding corrective action and proof of compliance that has been reported to school districts that were monitored in previous school years. In addition, any compliance issues identified in the 2004-2005 school year during the piloted model will require corrective action.

I have approved the request from the OSE/EIS to suspend the MMM for the 2004-2005 school year, while conducting the required follow-up activities with previously monitored school districts and those districts that participate in the 2004-2005 pilot model.

Following the pilot implementation of the CIMS the OSE/EIS will propose a revised Monitoring system for public comment and review. This proposal is anticipated in April of 2005.

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